NOAA FY 2001 Budget Request Fact Sheet

AMERICA'S OCEAN FUTURE

National Ocean Service Data Acquisition - $1.8 Million Increase

NOAA requests a $1.8 million increase in FY 2001 for additional ship time needed to collect information at sea on important fisheries and coastal habitats that are currently threatened by over-exploitation and habitat degradation. This funding request is in support of the America's Ocean Future Initiative, an integrated effort to promote new scientific insight into the oceans, sustain use of fisheries and other marine resources, provide new opportunities for economic growth, and protect fragile coastal ecosystems from damage and environmental degradation. This investment also supports goals of the Clean Water and Lands Legacy Initiatives.

The Need for Oceanographic Information

Declines in commercially important fish populations, the degradation of coastal habitats, and the dangers posed to human and resource health from harmful algal blooms (HABs) stand out as some of the most germane and scientifically complex coastal issues facing our nation. These threats to our environment are responsible for billions of dollars in economic losses as well as significant impacts on our nations coastal resources and communities. Providing vessel support for scientists to collect accurate oceanographic information required to support land side research is essential for developing management solutions to these problems. This additional ship time request provides support for over $9 million in NOAA sponsored research as well as nearly $10 million in research conducted by other Federal, state, and academic partners.

Responding to the Problem

To provide the most accurate and up to date information on the state of our oceans and coasts, NOAA requests $1.8 million in increased funds under the National Ocean Service Acquisition of Data line item to support approximately 140 days-at-sea of additional ship time through vessel charters. Through the continued partnership with the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS), NOAA is able to utilize university research vessels to help collect the data necessary for effective ocean and coastal management. Among the projects supported by this additional ship time are:

Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms (ECOHAB). Through ECOHAB, NOAA seeks to better understand and predict the impacts of multiple stressors, such as hypoxia and harmful algal blooms (including pfiesteria) on coastal estaurine habitats. Funding will support regional ECOHAB projects in the Gulf of Maine and in the Gulf of Mexico.

U.S. Global Ocean Ecosystems Dynamics Program (GLOBEC). GLOBEC projects support our efforts to better understand ongoing changes in ocean chemistry through large, multi-disciplinary, multi-year research studies. Funding will support GLOBEC projects in the Gulf of Alaska and in the Northeast Pacific.

The days-at-sea will also be used to support other Federal, state, and academic research efforts including the Pacific Northwest Coastal Ecosystem Regional Study (PNCERS), the Episodic Events: Great Lakes Experiment (EEGLE), and the Northern Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Studies.

NOAA Budget

	FY 2001 Change $ millions
National Ocean Service	
(Acquisition of Data)	$1.8
Acquisition of Data Total	**$1.8**

For Further Information Contact:
Office of Legislative Affairs
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
(202) 482-4981